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Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 287

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23 July 1982

WORLDWIDE REPORT

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INCREASE IN LEPTOSPIROSIS FOUND AMONG DAIRY FARMERS

Melbourne THE AGE in English 22 May 82 p 13

[Article by Carol Sides]

[Text] Modern milking sheds are fine for cows, but researchers are questioning how good they are for farmers.

Industry sources are alarmed at the increasing incidence of the disease leptospirosis, commonly known as leptos, among dairy farmers.

Limited research suggests that the risk of infection is greater in the modern herringbone sheds than in the more traditional walk-through milking sheds. In the herringbone shed farmers work in a well beneath the cow and can contract the disease through the cows' urine if it penetrates the lining of the eye, mouth, nose or a scratch to the skin.

Symptoms in humans are a 7-10 day fever, severe headaches, sore muscles and discomfort from bright light. Severe cases may cause vomiting, abdominal pain or jaundice.

The Victorian Department of Agriculture advised all dairy farmers to vaccinate their cattle against the disease. Unfortunately, farmers may also contract leptos from their cattle and there is no known vaccine for them.

The administrative director of United Dairyfarmers of Victoria, Mr Terry O'Callaghan, said yesterday leptos disease had already reached "epidemic proportions" in New Zealand. The UDV was concerned about incidence of the disease in Victoria and trying to make farmers aware of the risks.

Mr O'Callaghan said farmers were more likely to be exposed to leptos disease in the new herringbone milking shed because they had to work in a well below the cow. "As a result they are more likely to contract the splash of the cows' urine," he said. "Previously the urine splashed on to their gumboots."

Herringbone sheds were used by more than 60 per cent of Victorian dairy farmers.

He said there were no precise figures on the incidence of leptos disease in farmers because it was difficult for doctors to diagnose from the symptoms alone. Blood tests were the most effective means of identification.

Mr O'Callaghan said dairy farmers would ask the State Government to look for a vaccine for humans. The annual conference of the UDV in Melbourne next month was expected to call for further action.

A Kyabram general practitioner has conducted a pilot test on blood samples from about 60 dairy farmers, but is still waiting for the results.

The GP said there was no evidence that leptospira survived in milk, or that it could be transmitted to man by infected milk.

CSO: 5400/7563

LAX QUARANTINE IN PNG POSES DISEASE THREAT TO NORTH

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 28 May 82 p 8

[Text]

TORRES STRAIT Islanders and north Queenslanders were at risk because of inadequate quarantine services to prevent South-East Asian diseases entering from Papua New Guinea, the Opposition Leader, Mr Casey, said yesterday.

At the end of a four-day fact finding tour of the Torres Strait region, Mr Casey said that last year a number of cases of a particularly virulent and dangerous form of malaria were reported in the Torres Strait.

Two victims were at present being treated in Thursday Island Hospital.

Mr Casey said the increasing movement of people between islands had increased the quarantine risk. Customs quarantine staff did their utmost but there were too few of them and their resources were inadequate.

"It is imperative that more be done to protect the people, livestock and agricultural industries from the ravages of serious diseases," Mr Casey said.

In Brisbane last night, the Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Mr Tomkins, said

Mr Casey was "being fed lots of hogwash" during the so-called fact finding mission.

"As a consequence he is making statements which have little basis in truth and virtually no credibility with the people generally," Mr Tomkins said.

Mr Casey had said that the health of some islanders was in jeopardy because of inadequate medical services and a limited range of food, some of which had passed the expiry date.

Mr Tomkins said that in cases where food dates had expired, the problem was industrial.

"Time and again supply boats, loaded and ready to put to sea, are delayed by industrial action, often over the most trivial matters," he said.

CSO: 5440/7565

SPENDING FOR PERTH 'OUTFALL' PIPELINE AT RECORD LEVEL

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 28 Jun 82 p 4

[Article by Mark Skulley]

[Text]

ABOUT \$49 million will be spent to build the Point Peron outfall pipeline which will cut the discharge of nutrients into Cockburn Sound.

Spending on the pipeline will make it the biggest single project undertaken by the Metropolitan Water Board.

Details of the MWB's estimated expenditure of \$453 million (in 1982 prices) on Perth's water, sewerage and drainage services over the next five years were released yesterday.

The MWB's five-year development plan says that the outfall pipe is the best way of reducing undesirable nutrients being discharged into Cockburn Sound from its Woodman Point plant.

The plan said that the MWB's revenue needs per service would stabilise and decline in the latter part of the five-year period after a slight early rise.

The MWB's chairman, Mr Alton Batty, said that this would be a general trend which would follow through to water rates. However, it did not account for inflation.

The plan says it will be some time before options to the present system of rating by valuation can be introduced.

The expenditure is aimed at meeting growth in demand, improving existing services, replacing worn-out facilities and minimising environmental damage.

The plans shows that the biggest amount spent by the MWB will be on sewerage (\$266 million), water (\$109 million), drainage (\$20 million), and common services (\$57 million).

Reduction

It says that a reduction in the planned rate of development of additional water sources such as dams, and ground-water schemes in the previous plan will continue

over the next five years.

This was because of an increased awareness not to waste water since the late 1970s. The number of customers having private wells for garden irrigation had doubled between 1977 and 1979.

The report predicts that it would cost \$1000 million to service the estimated 100,000 residential units in the metropolitan area that are not now sewered.

It says that sewerage facilities in new subdivisions will not be installed at public cost.

On average, restraints on water use would be applied one year in every 10, with severe restrictions being applied on an average of one in every 20 years.

BRIEFS

MALARIA WARNING--State health authorities were warned yesterday of a significant incidence of malaria in Australia, with 500 cases reported in 1981. The Minister for Education, Senator Baume, representing the Minister for Health, Mr Carlton, produced a table in the Senate showing that all cases had been contracted overseas--mainly in the Solomon Islands. Replying to the Government Whip, Senator Kilgariff (NT), Senator Baume said the 1981 total was down slightly on the previous year, but represented a significant incidence of malaria, which is not endemic to Australia. Senator Baume said the drop in numbers did not necessarily indicate a trend, and the Health Department had yet to complete a detailed analysis of the origin of the cases. While most cases had arrived from the Solomons, a few--less than in 1980--had come from South-East Asia, and some from Africa and Central America. "There are public health implications in the number of cases coming from the Pacific basin," Senator Baume said. "I believe State and territory health authorities will want to look at their role in taking responsibility for the treatment of these cases."

[Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 21 May 82 p 12]

HERBICIDE ISSUE--The Perth City Council has deferred a \$6500 purchase of herbicide after a complaint that its use led to the illness of a woman and a child. Cr John Bissett (Carlisle) moved to defer the bulk purchase of weed-control herbicide for spraying on the council's parks and verges. He said yesterday that a woman and a small child had become sick last year after eating vegetables contaminated by council-sprayed herbicide. The vegetables had been cut from a front garden, and has withered and died the following day. About 20 people had also complained that their lawns had been affected after road verges were sprayed in Carlisle. Couch grass in some lawns had died and not regrown for up to five months. Cr Bissett said he wanted the council to be extra cautious about herbicide. He would prefer to see weeds than have his three little children pick up dangerous toxins either through the air or through their skin as they ran around barefoot. The chairman of the council's general purposes committee, Cr Joan Watters, agreed to have the herbicide analysed in the interests of safety. The committee had recommended buying the herbicide. [Text]

[Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 26 May 82 p 26]

DOCTORS TO MIDDLE EAST--AUSTRALIAN doctors and nurses are moving to hospitals in the Middle East at the rate of 12 a month, with many more likely to be recruited by the end of the year, according to an American-based medical recruitment organisation. The Whittaker International Services group is looking for 7500 doctors and nurses to staff two new hospitals in the Middle East. The group's president, Mr Curt Gielow, arrived in Sydney yesterday to launch a major recruitment drive and to meet the Federal Minister for Health, Mr Carlton, and department officials in Canberra next week. Mr Gielow said Middle Eastern countries were looking increasingly to Australia and New Zealand for medical staff. Australians already working at hospitals in the Middle East were highly successful. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 31 May 82 p 3]

MINISTRY ACTS TO COMBAT TYPHOID EPIDEMIC

GF281045 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 28 Jun 82 p 1

[Article by Soman Baby]

[Text] A typhoid epidemic is sweeping Bahrain. The ministry of health has mobilised all its forces to combat the disease, and an isolation ward has been opened in As-Salmaniyyah Hospital to treat all suspected cases.

Already 104 cases have been reported, most of them in the past three weeks-- compared with a total of 157 cases last year and 290 in 1980

Unlike in 1980, when green salad was established as the source of typhoid, health officials suspect this year's outbreak as a waterborn epidemic as in 1975 and 1978.

But the public are warned not to eat locally made ice creams.

All affected areas are being provided with chlorinated water and an all-out effort is being made to check water contamination, unhygienic sanitation and rubbish disposal.

Dr Ibrahim Ya'Qub, assistant under secretary for preventive and primary health care, said more than 80,000 pupils, food handlers and other people had been vaccinated against the disease.

"We don't want people to relax after a mass vaccination. Practising of strict personal hygiene is the most important way to check the outbreak," he said.

People should wash fresh fruit and vegetables thoroughly, boil any water that could be contaminated before drinking it.

Villages between Jidd Hafs and Al-Budayy' have been found to be the most affected area.

Dr Ya'Qub cited four reasons for the present outbreak: influx of imigrant workers to the island from highly endemic areas; returning of travellers to the country, from endemic areas; increasing number of food establishments serving the public; lack of chlorinated water for all the population.

CSO: 5400/4726

BARBADOS

LEPTOSPIROSIS CASES INCREASE: WAR DECLARED ON RATS

Report of Deaths

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Jun 82 p 1

[Excerpts] Barbadians are becoming concerned about the increased cases of leptospirosis in the island.

Reports from the Ministry of Health state that up to May 22 this year, there were 25 cases reported for the year and two deaths has resulted.

Dr. Vaughn Wells, Senior Medical Health Officer (Environmental), said yesterday that there has been an on-going rodent control campaign in the island to make people more aware of the dreaded disease, carried mainly by rats.

He has again warned the public to cover garbage with tight-fitting lids and not to strew garbage on the roadside.

He said too that people who kept animals and poultry are also encouraged to store the feed in a place where the rats cannot get at it.

This also, he added, is good advice for people who keep horses as well as manufacturers of feed.

Dr. Wells also warned that people who do gardening without gloves, might get a scratch, and if the soil had been urinated on by an infected rat, that is another way of catching the disease.

He also warned that all fresh vegetables should be thoroughly washed before they are eaten.

Campaign Against Rats

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 10 Jun 82 p 1

[Text] War is to be declared soon on Barbados' estimated one million rats.

The Ministry of Health plans to introduce a special campaign to eradicate the rodent population, according to Minister of Health, L. B. Brathwaite, when he toured the Oldbury dump in St. Philip, yesterday morning.

This programme will start in the agricultural districts where rats are most prolific, and will be implemented in stages, the minister said.

Brathwaite noted that such a programme would be very expensive, and Government might have to seek external funding for the project.

He added that the ministry could initially start with \$200 000, but costs could run up to the figure of \$1 million.

External funding for such a project could come from the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), and the minister said he intended taking up the matter with PAHO at its next meeting of directors, or with their local representative.

Brathwaite pointed out that the problem of leptospirosis would always come about during the rainy season. And, in a situation where there were large acres of cane left standing, there would be cause for concern, he added.

Rats, the minister said, thrived in such conditions, since they were prolific breeders.

"The Ministry of Health is doing all that is possible to cut down on illnesses in this country brought about by animals," he continued.

He noted that Barbados had a high reputation where health standards were concerned, and stressed that his ministry would maintain such standards.

The minister urged Barbadians to be more conscious of where they dump their garbage, noting that indiscriminate disposal of refuse was a serious problem.

He advised them to put out their garbage only at the times stipulated by the Sanitation Service Authority (SSA).

Brathwaite said that persons only became concerned with diseases like leptospirosis and polio when they heard of outbreaks in other countries.

He added that Barbados was relatively free of such diseases, and the Ministry of Health intended to see that this situation was maintained.

Refuse Crackdown Plans

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 10 Jun 82 p 1

[Text] New regulations governing the disposal of garbage will soon be introduced by the Ministry of Health in Barbados.

This was disclosed by Minister of Health, L.B. Brathwaite, while touring the Oldbury dump in St. Philip.

Laws will be effected on garbage disposal trucks to ensure they are adequately covered when transporting garbage, the minister pointed out.

Brathwaite also said laws to curb the littering of Transport Board buses would soon come into being.

He noted that the indiscriminate dumping of garbage by persons was a cause for concern, and he urged them to be more careful when disposing of refuse.

His tour of the dumping site reassured him that adequate health precautions were being taken by the Sanitation Service Authority to effectively control the breeding of rats and flies, the minister stated.

CSO: 5400/7564

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

CONCERN OVER POLIO--The president of the Regional Medical Association of the National District manifested his concern over the incidence of polio cases among the population. Dr Alejandro Pichardo Pantaleon said that the disease causes greater concern in proportion to the Public Health Service's refusal to acknowledge the actual existence of a polio epidemic. He pointed out that with each day there is an increase in the number of cases of children who are afflicted with the disease and who are sent to the Robert Reid Cabral Hospital. Pichardo Pantaleon remarked that six cases reported in the past 4 days lead to the conclusion that vaccinations must center on children 3 years old and younger and asked that the health department intensify to the utmost its vaccination and treatment campaigns. [Text] [Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 27 Jun 82 p 13] 8255

CSO: 5400/2179

INDIA

BRIEFS

UDAIPUR JAUNDICE EPIDEMIC--JAIPUR, June 9--A catastrophic epidemic of jaundice has broken out in the City of Lakes, thanks to the supply of badly-polluted water to the people of Udaipur by the Public Health Engineering Department, local Municipality and the Urban improvement Trust. The city of Udaipur gets drinking water supply from Fateh Sagar and Pichola Lake. While both the water sources are not properly cleared by the PHED, the drainage water from the surrounding localities falling into the Fateh Sagar has been contaminating the drinking water. Not only this but one could see that the local washermen have made the Fateh Sagar nothing less than a 'dhobi ghat'--but none is there to check. And there are the local Municipality and the Urban Improvement Trust to transfer the sewerage water into the drink water pipe lines. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Jun 82 p 4]

MYSTERIOUS DISEASE KILLS 99--New Delhi, Tuesday. A mystery mosquito-born disease has killed 99 people in the Jalpaiguri district of India's West Bengal state over the past three months, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today. State Health Minister Nani Bhattacharya told reporters in Calcutta that the district was being sprayed with insecticide to kill the mosquitos and stop the epidemic. A report on the nature of the killer disease was being studied by the state Health Ministry, PTI said. PTI quoted officials as saying that a total of 1,512 people had been stricken by the disease.--(Reuter) [Text] [Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 30 Jun 82 p 10]

CSO: 5400/5699

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

ELIMINATION OF YAWS--Banda Aceh, 25 Jun (ANTARA)--Yaws is expected to be eliminated from Indonesian soil at the end of the Third Five-Year Plan (in 1984), even if the contagious skin disease may still be prevalent in several parts of the country. The prediction was made by Dr Burhanuddin Jusuf, head of the Aceh health service contagious diseases eradication section, in a talk with ANTARA here Thursday [24 June]. In most of Aceh, the disease has disappeared, but it is still in evidence in several districts along the coast and in mountain areas, especially in such parts where the sense for sanitary living is low, he said. Burhanuddin called on the public to immediately report the incidence of yaws to the nearest public health clinic to help the government in bringing closer the day when the disease can be declared eradicated in the country. [Jakarta ANTARA in English 0746 GMT 2 Jun 82 BK]

CSO: 5400/5665

FIFTY CASES OF POLIO REPORTED; SECOND PHASE OF IMMUNIZATION BEGINS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 Jun 82 p 1

[Text] Fifty cases of poliomyelitis, nine of which originated outside St. James, have been identified by the Ministry of Health.

A Ministry statement yesterday said that the Epidemiology Department had been clinically assessing and investigating the patients' travel and residential history. Of the 50 cases identified, research had so far shown that all but nine had originated in St. James.

Twelve cases have been transferred to the Mona Rehabilitation Centre where arrangements are in place for the fitting of calipers, splints and braces where necessary. The Ministry reported that three cases which required respiratory intervention had been accommodated at the University Hospital.

Emphasis from now until the commencement of the second phase of the immunisation campaign in July will be on the rehabilitation of the clinically-identified cases. To this end, the Ministry had involved Professor John Golding and the Mona Rehabilitation Centre and had prepared orthopaedic care for the patients.

The Ministry is urging the public to continue to be vigilant, to co-operate in maintaining the highest level of cleanliness and to follow the health guidelines given. It said that those in the targeted age group, 30 years and under, particularly those under 15 years, who had not yet been immunised, should see to this now.

Once a person had been exposed to the virus, it took up to 14 to 35 days for the final manifestation of the symptoms; and therefore, even after the first cycle of immunisation, it was still likely for cases to show themselves, the Ministry said.

CSO: 5400/7566

RESULTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH WORK NOTED

BK110953 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 10 Jun 82

["Kampuchea" editorial: "Increase the Efficiency of the Public Health Service for the Benefit of the People"--date not given]

[Summary] Since human beings are the most valuable capital of a country, each state's social system can be judged from the care it provides in this regard.

In the veudalist societies of the Sihanouk and Lon Nol regime, medicine was seen as a careet, not as a service. Thus, both the doctors and the medical centers were concentrated only in big towns and the patients had to pay for their treatment. Workers, peasants and poor people in towns and the countryside led a miserable life with no doctors or medicine. In the Pol Pot era, doctors were absolutely ignorant in providing medical treatment and care to the patients. The duty of doctors in this era was to watch the patients and bury the corpses. They killed almost all the doctors from the previous societies.

"Contrary to these dark eras, our proletarian state power has paid particular attention to public health." There have been great changes in medical care and the health service. We have set up public health networks that provide free medical treatment and care. Unlike the old regimes, our public health service stresses prevention rather than cure. "So far, despite shortages of everything from material to personnel and although we have had to face many urgent problems vital to our country, our state power has succeeded in developing the public health service step by step. Thanks to the sense of mastery, creativeness and perseverance of our health personnel at all levels and sincere, first-hand aid from the Vietnamese, Soviet and other socialist friends as well as international humanitarian and progressive organizations throughout the world, we were able to pass the difficult situation in 1979--the bad consequences left behind by the 5-year U.S. war and the insane democratic Kampuchean regime which was in power for almost 4 years."

At present, we have set up health networks from the central down to commune levels. Aside from the efforts of local health personnel, our mobile medical teams have carried out regular campaigns to eradicate diseases in localities, thus successfully reducing a number of epidemic diseases such as malaria, cholera and typhoid fever, that used to threaten our peasants in the

countryside. "So far, Prey Veng, Kandal and Takeo Provinces have been successful in eradicating malaria and cholera thanks to harmonious cooperation between the central mobile teams and the provincial, district and commune health service. Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Speu, Takeo and Kompong Thom Provinces have creatively produced indigenous medicine that can cure illness." Sending medical students to help the provincial and district hospitals has helped both these future doctors who can witness the condition of society and the symptoms of illness and the provinces and districts which will benefit from new ideas and techniques. However, we still have many tasks to be fulfilled in accordance with the guidelines of the Fourth Party Congress and the third session of the Party Central Committee, namely, stimulating the sanitation campaign, expanding medical care and training health personnel at all levels in medical practices and ethics. The sanitation campaign in the current rainy season is our most urgent and necessary task. This must be carried out together with efforts to increase the efficiency of the local health service aiming at preventing various diseases from spreading. To fulfill this campaign of promoting local sanitation, all the health networks, officials' mass organizations, core units and party members must cooperate in carrying out this campaign by building one model village after another as we did in the past and advising the people to live and eat hygienically. "The most effective way is to introduce the health ministry's health advices and articles into the curriculum of literacy classes, schools and other education. The first to set an example in this campaign are the party members, core members, cadres, officials at all levels and of all sectors and militarymen who should first keep their localities clean and hygienic." It is also necessary to provide both technical knowledge and ethics to our health personnel since these two things are inseparable. Attention should be given to those local cadres who have served the people and enjoy the support of the masses. Avoid those persons who behave badly toward patients, cheat and neglect their duties. In some treatment, we should use indigenous medicine which is readily available and does not have bad side effects as some modern medicines do.

We must pay particular attention to public health work because health is related to living conditions in general. Aside from the good living conditions in villages, communes, towns and cities, we must also provide good surroundings for workers in factories. Only by so doing can we realize the slogan: prevention is better than cure.

Each of us is duty-bound to stay healthy and contribute to strengthening the health of everyone in society. Cadres and personnel in charge of the health service should make every effort to effectively carry out the public health line of our party and state.

CSO: 5400/5662

BRIEFS

CAMPAIGN AGAINST MALARIA--Phnom Peny, 11 Jun (SPK)--Following the downfall of the Pol Pot gang, 83 percent of the country where lived 2,609,000 inhabitants was plagued by malaria as a result of the gang's forced evacuation of the cities. In Svay Rieng Province 70,000 persons were affected by malaria. Cases of this pernicious fever were frequent in Pursat and Preah Vihear Provinces. At present there are 1,400 health workers specialized in antimalaria operations in Kampuchea. The antimalaria networks have been extended into communes and the remotest regions. Two hundred health workers are being trained at the health ministry to fight malaria. The health ministry plans to completely eliminate malaria by the year 2,000 and to distribute DDT twice a year in the malaria-stricken regions for 4 years running. Mobile anti-malaria groups in cooperation with local medical workers have given medical care to the population and distributed DDT powder in the Chup, Ta Pav, Thmar Pich and other rubber plantations in Kompong Cham Province and in regions of Battambang, Siem Reap, Pursat and Kompong Chhnang Provinces. They have studied blood samples of more than 13,500 persons and introduced the population to curative and preventive measures. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 1426 GMT 11 Jun 82 BK]

CSO: 5400/5662

BRIEFS

VIENTIANE ANTI-MALARIA EQUIPMENT--On 27 April 1982 the public health service of Vientiane Province brought medicine along with vehicles to be used in a specialized task operation to be given officially to the Phon Hong and Keo-Oudom District hospitals, Vientiane Province. The equipment they brought this time was 300 vials of anti-malaria medicine, 6 types of vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, chicken pox, polio, and TB. In addition, they gave 6 bicycles and 2 refrigerators to the two district hospitals. In making this effort, the provincial public health service encouraged the spraying of insecticide to kill mosquitos on the part of the specialized cadres and the people in every village in a timely fashion. They also provided guidance to medical cadres in those locations concerning the use of the equipment given to them for use in their work of serving the people in a widespread and effective manner. At this time, Phon Hong District has completed spraying in 8 villages and Keo-Oudom District is 50 percent complete. [Text] [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 18 May 82 p 1] 9884

PAKSAN MALARIA OUTBREAK--On 10 May 1982 a Vientiane provincial public health department team led by Dr Thongbai Phimmason encouraged and mobilized medical cadres, doctors and people within Paksan District to spray DDT for malaria control and to control a malaria outbreak among the people in Ban Thouy Canton. The public health department team helped to reassure the people and improve ways for medical cadres to perform their specialized tasks in taking care of patients effectively. Meanwhile, they set up a village malaria control unit. They also inspected and planned repair work within the hospital in order to improve it jointly with the forest region 1 and 3 district administrative authority, the lumber mills, and the district hospital. This was done to work closely with those involved in rebuilding it so that the medical facilities could serve the people on a wider scale. [Text] [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 19 May 82 p 1] 9884

VIENTIANE DISTRICT ANTI-MALARIA CAMPAIGNS--In March 1982 the public health office of Vientiane Province sent anti-malaria medicine to the public health offices of 4 districts subordinate to Vientiane Province, namely Phon Hong, Keo-Oudom, Vang Viang, and Kasi, for the people in each area to prevent and cure malaria. There are reports that public health officers have moved to prevent and control malaria in their districts, and have attentively helped to decrease the illness, especially in Na Mon and Hin Heup Cantons, Ban Somsanouk, and Fheung Subdistrict. At the same time

provincial public health officers have also planned a groundbreaking [ceremony] for a new hospital to be constructed in Kasi District. At the present time the basic preparation of the construction equipment for this hospital has been achieved. [Text] [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 12 April 82 p 1] 9884

CHAMPASSAK MALARIA WORK--From the beginning of March to the end of April the Champassak Province Public Health Department malaria office sent malaria control officers with over 2 million tablets of anti-malarial medicine, more than 10 tons of DDT, and a complete set of test and examination equipment for the disease. This office joined with malaria control officers in 10 districts within the province in order to open a malaria control center. During this period they were able to give out anti-malaria medicine to the people, examine blood in order to look for malaria, and spray DDT over houses and ditches. Phon Thong District was taken care of. At the present time the malaria control center is accelerating its operation effectively, and is expected to complete its work in all districts by the beginning of June. [Text] [Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 20 May 82 p 1] 9884

VIENTIANE MALARIA WORK--In order to maintain good health for people of many ethnic groups so they can take part in increasing the yearly rice production at the right time of the growing season this year, starting 2 February to 27 April 1982 malaria control officers of Nasaithong District, Vientiane City and Province, sprayed DDT and distributed anti-malaria medicine to the people in 4 cantons in the mountainous areas, Na Sam, Na Thiam, Nam Sang, and Sakai. When the work was finished 5,552 people had received medicine for preventing malaria. Of this number, 2,800 were men. The malaria control officers continued their operations in each village in order to teach the people the "three clean" sanitation principles, how to control malaria, and also some documents about how to control diseases in the rainy season. A total of 1,260 people attended these talks. [Text] [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 14 May 82 p 1] 9884

CSO: 5400/5612

SARAWAK TRYING TO IDENTIFY CHOLERA CARRIERS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Jun 82 p 5

[Text]

KUCHING, Thurs. — At least 60 cholera carriers are believed to be at large in Sarawak despite efforts to check its outbreak in the State.

State Director-General of Medical Services Dr Tan Yaw Kwang in an interview with the NST said this is based on their findings that for every reported case of cholera there are five carriers.

"We are on the alert and are making all efforts to check the spread of cholera. However, it cannot be completely successful unless residents in the affected areas help us by practising better personal hygiene," said Dr Tan.

He pointed out that the situation was made more difficult because it was impossible to detect cholera carriers unless they underwent medical check-ups.

"Carriers have cholera germs but do not suffer the symptoms of the disease. In fact they are like any healthy people."

However, he said carriers may suspect they

have the germs by the occurrence of the disease in areas they have visited.

He said that carriers who spread the disease were those who usually went on bajalai (visiting) trips to various kampungs or longhouses. Carriers may suspect they have the germs because the places they visit usually get infected.

Antibiotics

So far five areas have been identified where there is an outbreak — Matu Daro, Binatang, Sarikci, Sibu and Oya Dalat. There have been two deaths out of the 29 reported cases.

The Medical Services have also identified 79 carriers so far.

Dr Tan said measures have been taken to ensure that the outbreak would not be as bad as in 1977 where there were nine deaths out of 240 cases. However, up till now the cholera figures in Sarawak have exceeded

those in the four previous years.

In 1978 there was only one reported case, 1979 (three), 1980 (two) and last year 27 cases.

Among some of the measures taken to check the spread of cholera was antibiotic treatment for residents in the affected areas. More than 13,000 people have received treatment in such areas.

He said that as soon as a case was reported, a medical team was sent to the area for immediate treatment to be given.

He added that apart from the short-term measures the Government was spending about \$2 million each year to improve sanitation and water supply to areas which are vulnerable to the disease.

Figures show that in 1970 there were 3,529 latrines in the rural areas as compared to the 70,381 at present. The target now is to build between 15,000 and 20,000 each year until 1990 when more than 70 per cent of Sarawak has good sanitation.

CSO: 5400/8425

AVERAGE OF 56 CASES OF DENGUE FEVER PER MONTH

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Jun 82 p 7

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — An average of 56 cases of dengue fever were reported in Peninsular Malaysia each month since the beginning of the year.

Figures released by the Health Ministry today showed there were 283 cases of both dengue haemorrhagic fever and dengue fever during this period, resulting in 13 deaths.

The worst hit States are Johore (76 cases and one death), Selangor (64 cases and four deaths), Federal Territory (60 cases and six deaths) and Perak (33 cases).

Most of the cases were type A dengue fever characterised by very high fever, pain behind the eyes and severe body ache.

Dengue haemorrhagic fever has been confined to the Federal Territory (six cases), Selangor

(four cases) and one case each in Johore, Negri Sembilan and Kelantan.

The six deaths in the Federal Territory occurred in Jalan Pekeliling, Gurney Road, Jinjang Utama, Sungei Besi, Jalan Cheras and Setapak.

The four deaths in Selangor were in Selayang Baru, Setapak, Ampang Jaya and Sabak Bernam.

Control

The Director of Health Services, Datuk (Dr) Ezaddin bin Mohamed, said the Ministry had an on-going programme on health education and preventive medicine.

All States had been advised to step up their activities in order to control the disease.

"We certainly want to prevent an epidemic," he said.

Health authorities in the various States would be going around advising people on how to control dengue fever. Discarded tins and motor-car tyres often made excellent breeding grounds for the Aedes mosquito which carried the virus.

Datuk (Dr) Ezaddin called on local councils to ensure that rubbish was collected regularly.

"Local authorities should also make a greater effort to enforce the Destruction of Diseases-Bearing Act 1975," he said.

Most of the cases occurred in urban areas which were under the control of the local authorities and the Ministry had no power to take action in those areas.

He added that the public should also co-operate by ensuring that there was no stagnant water in and around their house. The Aedes mosquito normally bred in clean, clear water and therefore water which was stored should be covered.

CSO: 5400/8425

CHOLERA OUTBREAK SPREADS IN SABAH

Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 19 Jun 82 p 52

[Text]

KOTA KINABALU.— Sabah's cholera outbreak has been marked by the deaths of two-year-old twin brothers — and the appearance of the first cases in the Ranau and Kudat districts.

A Medical Department official in Kota Kinabalu told the Bulletin the twins accompanied six other family members by road from Sandakan, reaching the West Coast town of Beaufort on Monday last week.

The next day, four children from the family were admitted with cholera to the government hospital in Beaufort, with the twins in serious condition.

The official said one of the twins was so badly dehydrated — from the severe vomiting and diarrhoea characteristic of the disease — that he died the same day.

His brother succumbed the following day (June 9) to bring the death toll for the outbreak to seven.

The other two children,

however, are said to be recovering while the rest of the family were found to be carriers and isolated for treatment at the same hospital.

The official said: "Our investigations show these cases were already incubating the disease while staying at Kampung Forestry, Mile Two (kilometre 3.2) Sandakan-Ranau Road, which is an infected area."

The official added that the two deaths are being recorded under Sandakan and Beaufort is still considered cholera-free.

During the week ending last Sunday 14 cases were reported, to bring the total number to 139 since the outbreak began in mid-April.

Ten of the week's cases (including the four admitted to Beaufort hospital) were from Sandakan and two from Kinabatangan.

Ranau and Kudat joined the ranks of cholera-infected districts with one case each.

The Medical Depart-

ment also reported discovering 30 carriers of the disease through the examination of 508 rectal swabs during the week.

All were from either Sandakan or Kinabatangan.

Hope of an improvement in the cholera situation was provided by the results of analysis of water samples from Sungai Motalid in Kinabatangan and Trusan Sapi and the stream at the Sin Fung estate in Beluran.

The waterways were found to be free of cholera germs after previously having been infected.

◆ Sarawak may have seen an end to its cholera outbreak which began early this year, with no new cases being reported during the second week of the month.

However, the Medical Department says a period of at least two weeks without any new cases is required before the state can be considered free of the disease.

MALAYSIA

BRIEFS

SARAWAK CHOLERA CASES--In Sarawak, another 2 confirmed cases of cholera and 16 carriers were reported in the last 48 hours. This brings the total number of cases to 34 and carriers to 95, the spokesman of the state medical department in Kuching said. The spokesman reminds the people in the affected areas to observe special hygiene to help prevent the spread of the disease. [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 23 Jun 82 BK]

CSO: 5400/5665

MALDIVES

BRIEFS

DIARRHOEAL DISEASE IN MALDIVES CONTROLLED--The Maldivian Government health authorities have successfully controlled a diarrhoeal disease in the country through timely and effective preventive measures introduced a week ago, a press release of the Maldivian Embassy said. The cases reported to have been infected from the disease were immediately given all the necessary treatment and now recovered. New cases diagnosed are very few and isolated after the control programme started. No deaths have been so far recorded. Everything in the country is normal and the exclusive tourist resorts which are all separate islands as in the country's geographical structure are not at all affected from the diarrhoeal disease, the press release added.
[Text] [Colombo THE ISLAND in English 26 Jun 82 p 3]

CSO: 5400/5672

MEXICO

AUTHORITIES ADOPT MEASURES AGAINST POSSIBLE DENGUE EPIDEMIC

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 23 Jun 82 p 7

[Text] In view of the danger that the hemorrhagic form of dengue, which has been reported in Belize and Guatemala, might be introduced into our country, with all of the negative effects this would mean for the people, the Secretariat of Health and Assistance (SSA) has adopted all the preventive measures the situation requires. To this end it has assigned 362 experts to the southern frontier of Mexico.

The above information was announced by the secretariat, with the statement that it is expected that within a period of 2 to 8 weeks the experts can block the possible transition of dengue. It is an epidemic illness produced by a virus which develops in the blood and the cephalorhachidian fluid, and is transmitted by a mosquito.

In this connection, the SSA has arranged for the application of 28,500 liters of an insecticide--malathion, at 96 percent; 157,000 kg of a larvicide--Abate, at 1 percent; and 35,000 kg of humidifying DDT powder, at 75 percent, in the states of Quintana Roo, Chiapas, Yucatan and Campeche, in order to wage an effective battle against the *Aedes aegypti*, which transmits the disease, in the 237,635 homes located in the 7,451 blocks in those states.

Also, the secretariat announced that during the establishment of the sanitary cordon, strict surveillance of those individuals who crossed the frontier coming from Guatemala and Belize will be maintained.

Other measures will include investigation of any feverish or suspicious sick person, the establishment of epidemiological vigilance procedures with a view to early clinical diagnosis in health establishment, the spraying of all vehicles coming from Belize or Guatemala, and the holding of surveys in settlements and towns with various levels of infestation, in order to provide a continuing assessment of the risk of the spread of the disease.

5157

CSO: 5400/2180

MEXICO

BRIEFS

TYPHOID CASES--Tulancingo, Hgo., 5 Jun--The chief of the statistical department of the health center in this city, Lurdes Alburquerque Jimenez announced that eight cases of typhoid were detected today in settlements of the municipality of Agua Blanca, in the Hidalgo mountains. She added that up to now there is no knowledge of any fatalities. She mentioned that this morning a medical team headed by Dr Clemente Padilla Morales, chief of the Coordinated Services of Public Health in Tulancingo went to Agua Blanca to take necessary measures.
[Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 6 Jun 82 p 42-A] 9678

CSO: 5400/2173

FILIPPINES HEALTH SITUATION SERIOUS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 4 Jul 82 p 40

[Article by Norma Japitana]

[Text]

The Philippines has the highest death rates for TB, schistosomiasis, polio and rabies. Malaria cases have increased ten-fold and leprosy is on the rise. These alarming facts were bared by Dr. Mita Pardo de Tavera, chairman of AKAP (Alay Kapwa Pangkalusugan), an organization committed to primary health care and TB control.

The main cause of the prevailing situation is poverty. Eighty per cent of the population lack the most basic of human needs. Seven out of 10 Filipinos never see a doctor or nurse from birth to death. This is a sad fact considering that the Philippines is the leading exporter of doctors and nurses to western countries.

"It is not just the bacilli that causes TB," says Dr. Pardo de Tavera. Nutrition and environment has a lot more to do with the control of tuberculosis. The Philippines has the lowest average daily food consumption for Asia. Seventy per cent of the population are malnourished. These figures are from an official report of the Asian Development Bank.

For a country that boasts of about \$500 million worth of food exports annually, the statistics become more astonishing.

Because of the poor state of nutrition of expectant mothers, children born from them will also have nutrition

problems. Fifty per cent of these babies will die before reaching their teens.

Lack of safe water for 62 per cent of the population and proper sewerage system in 95 per cent account for the high death rate from dysentery and diarrhea.

To this grim picture of health in RP, Dr. de Tavera blames the inequity in the distribution of wealth and also in the distribution of health care. In the rural areas where 70 per cent of the population reside there is only one health person for every 20,000 people. In Mindanao the ratio is one public health physician for every 38,520 population. (Norma Japitana)

MEASLES IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 3 Jul 82 p 13

[Text]

Children between nine and 14 months old may now be taken to health centers or rural health teams to be immunized against measles for free under the immunization program of the Ministry of Health (MOH).

Fifteen years after the measles virus vaccine had been found safe and effective for Filipino children, the nationwide immunization program was finally launched the other day as a birthday gift to the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos.

Health Minister Jesus Azurin pledged that the program will be pursued vigorously to eradicate measles as the seventh leading cause of morbidity and the ninth of infant

mortality.

Since measles can be fatal to children below one year old, the MOH intends to immunize 1.5 million children between nine to 14 months old in the initial stage of the program.

To assist the MOH in immunizing, monitoring the incidence of communicable diseases and disseminating health information is the Philippine Pediatric Society headed by Dr. Miguel Noche.

S. H. Umemoto of the United Children's Fund (UNICEF) has committed assistance of P6 million every year for the expanded immunization program while World Health Organization Acting Director S. T. Han has

assured technical assistance.

Meanwhile, Dr. Fe del Mundo, director of the Lungsod ng Kabataan, expressed appreciation to the MOH for having included measles in its expanded program on immunization, which covers diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, tuberculosis and poliomyelitis.

She said that the high costs of vaccines in drugstores, at P35 each, have hampered efforts to control the spread of measles.

Deaths have often occurred because of complications such as broncho-pneumonia, encephalitis, eye and ear diseases, kidney ailments, and gastrointestinal diseases, she cited.

CSO: 5400/5672

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN SULU--Twelve persons have died and another 40 have been hospitalized in a suspected cholera outbreak on a small island in Sulu, the military reported. Philippine Army Brig Gen Mariano Miranda said the suspected cholera outbreak hit the small Sulu Sea fishing island of Tubigan in early June. The island has a population of about 2,000 people. Miranda, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry division on the island of Jolo, about 60 kilometer south of Tubigan, said tainted seafood was probably responsible for the outbreak. Miranda said Tubigan has been quarantined and no one is allowed to enter or leave the island without government permission. About 40 people suffering from the disease have been taken to the Sulu provincial hospital on Jolo for treatment, officials said. (UPI) [Text] [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 2 Jul 82 pp 1, 12]

MEASLES OUTBREAK IN CENTRAL LUZON--At least 14 children died of measles in an island barangay in Dagupan during the past three weeks. Cipriano Macaraeg, city health officer, said the measles outbreak was reported to him by Pedro de la Cruz, chairman of barangay to conduct an immunization drive. [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 12 Jun 82 p 2]

CSO: 5400/5644

SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

CANCER RESEARCH CENTER--Saudi Arabia is planning to establish a big cancer research center for which it has sought Japanese help to draw a blueprint. The Kingdom has also asked Japan to send some cancer specialists and train Saudi Arabians in this field. Japan has sent two groups to conduct feasibility studies and the third group to study the basic design of the center is expected to come sometime this summer. Saudi Arabia will bear the costs of construction and management of the center and the supply of personnel. [Text] [Jiddah SAUDI BUSINESS in English No 8, 18 Jun 82 p 38]

CSO: 5400/4729

BOVINE TB FOUND BUT NO BAN IMPOSED ON CATTLE TRADE

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 20 May 82 News of the North p 1

[Text] EAST Pilbara pastoralists who feared a possible quarantine ban on cattle from the area because of the presence of bovine tuberculosis, have been assured that there are no plans by the State Government for a blanket ban.

Many pastoralists have feared that a big area of the Pilbara would be ruled "bad" because of the presence of tuberculosis on three properties.

Rumours had been circulating that the Agricultural Protection Board or the Department of Agriculture might impose a ban on the trade of live cattle from the area without TB checks.

A line was drawn south of Wallal, 250km east of Port Hedland, several years ago because of similar problems with infectious diseases and the East Pilbara pastoralists feared a similar restriction.

The Minister for Agriculture, Mr Old, has told the pastoralists of the Government's intentions.

The three properties affected by bovine TB are De Grey, Warrawagine and Mount Edgar stations.

However, De Grey is virtually clean and has only one more testing programme before it should be cleared.

The programme should mean eradication by the end of this year.

The owner of Yarrie Pastoral station, Mr

Lang Coppin, said this week that he and many other local pastoralists had told the East Pilbara Shire Council of their concern about the rumours and the Pilbara ward of the Country Shire Councils Association put forward a recommendation against the possible quarantine ban for consideration at an annual meeting of the association.

Mr Coppin said that the pastoralists were relieved to hear that the ban was not being considered.

"A ban would have meant a considerable loss in revenue to farmers through no fault of their own because all cattle would have to undergo tests to see whether they had TB before they could be sold as trade cattle to southern

farmers," Mr Coppin said.

"The testing was not only an extra expense to the pastoralists, but it would mean that cattle had to be put in holding pens for several days, during which they would become run down and in poor condition for sale as trade cattle.

"We could demand a much lower price and cattle without testing could only be sold to abattoirs."

Mr Coppin said that many pastoralists would have suffered because of bovine TB suffered by a few properties.

He said that the pastoralists had been planning a meeting of all local pastoralists who would have been affected.

CSO: 5400/7563

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

BOVINE RABIES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN--Today the government and private enterprise started an intensive vaccination campaign to vaccinate 600 head of cattle in order to prevent paralyzing rabies in Antioquia, Choco, Magdalena Medio, Sucre, Bolivar, southern Guajira and northern Cesar. Experts of the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, the departmental health secretariats, Vecol [Colombian Veterinary Products Enterprise] and cattlemen's associations set in motion an operation to obtain samples for laboratory analysis in order to promote scientific research. The authorities requested all cattlemen to adhere strictly to a vaccination schedule for their cattle and notified them that this should be done annually and that calves should be vaccinated as soon as they are 4 months old. [Excerpt] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Jun 82 p 5-F] 8255

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAKS-- Quarantine in 12 Tolima districts because of foot-and-mouth disease fever. Ibague, 12 June--Outbreaks of type A foot-and-mouth disease fever caused the regional ICA [Colombian Agricultural and Animal Sciences Institute] to decree a quarantine in the municipalities of Guamo, Coello, Flandes, Espinal, Suarez, Saldana, Purificacion, Prado, Coyaima, Natagaima, Ortega, and San Luis. In addition, the Guamo and Natagaima fairs, scheduled to take place next week at the same time as the festivities of San Juan, have been cancelled. Luis Alberto Robles, manager of the regional ICA, said that type A outbreaks have appeared in Guamo and Natagaima, and are tending to spread. He also reported vesicular type foci in Coello and Ortega. The health measures that were taken tend to prevent the transmission of the disease to other areas, since a high percentage of the transmission is due to the transporting of cattle for commercial purposes without the observance of established requirements. [Excerpt] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Jun 82 p 14-A] 8255

CSO: 5400/2177

OUTBREAK OF CATTLE DISEASE IN UPPER EGYPT REPORTED

Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 22 May 82 p 3

[Article by 'Ali Shihatah: "When Cattle Drop Dead; in al-Fayyum and Upper Egypt Governorates: Hundreds of Cattle Dehydrate and Drop Dead in 2 Days With Strange Disease; Livestock Experts: It Is National Catastrophe Whose Dangers Have Not Yet Ended"]

[Text] As tree leaves dry up, wither and fall, so do enormous head of cattle weighing nearly 500 kilograms. They wither and drop dead. This happens within a few days, 2 or 3 days. Sometimes it even happens within a few hours, 2 or 3 hours.

The catastrophe might have assumed serious dimensions posing a threat to the heart of food security operations had not the afflicted cattle, as well as the entire area concerned, been surrounded and isolated.

This has happened in Qina, Bani Suwayf, al-Minya and al-Fayyum. However, Lower Egypt is 100 percent clear. Al-Fayyum is now a sealed governorate insofar as meat is concerned. No livestock is imported or exported. The markets are closed and there is no supply and no sales, not until the situation is brought under control. The situation has not been brought under full control yet and the governorate is still sealed off. Even though cases of afflicted cattle in cooperatives and concentrations have been brought under control, the danger has not yet disappeared completely.

But what is the story of this strange, sudden and unidentified disease that afflicts only cattle and does not infect buffalo, camels, sheep, dogs, cats or man?

Cases Controlled

The first symptoms of this disease are reflected in a rise of temperature to 45 degrees celsius, which is the high end of the thermometer, the discharge of nasal mucus and watery diarrhea followed by bloody diarrhea. This results in dehydration and then in death. Thus, cattle drop dead like tree leaves in the fall. This entire process may not taken more than 2 days or 48 hours at the most.

The death of a cow is a catastrophe to a breeder or a farmer because the price of a cow, especially an imported cow, reaches 1,200 pounds. The compensation paid by the Veterinary Medicine Directorate is very small, not exceeding a few pounds. We have at our disposal an official receipt from the Veterinary Medicine Directorate in al-Fayyum, signed by the fund branch director and the general director of veterinary medicine in the governorate, of a paid compensation of 17.5 pounds, "with our deep respects."

Outcome of First Battle at Qasr Rashwan

At the outset, the true nature of the disease was not known and it was not known whether it was cattle plague or blood poisoning. The beginning came at the farm of Maj Gen Salah al-Din Labib. This was at the end of last February. The man has 468 cows, which he breeds through his own efforts, with a loan of nearly 125,000 pounds from the Egyptian National Bank. Major General Labib is the director of the Qasr Rashwan Cooperative. He saw his cows, the fortune of his life and his future hope, become afflicted with a strange disease---a shiver in the belly, a rise in temperature, mucous liquid running from the mouth, a reddening of the eyes and bloody diarrhea. He started intensive treatment but there was no response.

Three committees came from Cairo but the cows started falling dead, like dry leaves.

The losses of the Qasr Rashwan director, the first victim in al-Fayyum, were as follows: 32 breeding cows (nearly 4 years old), each valued at no less than 1,200 pounds.

Twenty three calves, 10 for breeding, each valued at 650 pounds.

Fifteen male calves, 9 of which weighted 400 kilograms each and the rest over 300 pounds each. The average price of each of the calves is 500 pounds.

Thirty eight calves ranging in age from 1 week to 3 months, with an average price of 100 pounds for each of the calves.

Thirty five miscarriages because of the disease.

Thus, the outcome of the first battle with the disease in al-Fayyum is the loss of 108 head of cattle valued at nearly 52,000 pounds.

Compensation...When? Bank Loan...How?

The man is stunned by what has happened.

In less than a month, he has lost cattle worth more than 52,000 pounds. The man is agonizing. How is he to repay the 125,000-pound loan from the National Bank when they [the veterinary directorate] have not paid him a single penny? How is he to live? He doesn't know who to accuse.

He wonders with profound grief: Why has the insurance fund not acted and fully compensated the victims? A catastrophe did occur in Qutur District in al-Gharbiyah Governorate 10 years ago. Cattle were poisoned by the (Fosbil) pesticide, which had been sprayed on cotton plantations. At the time, the insurance fund compensated the victims fully. The fund paid 100 percent of the actual price.

The surprising thing is that Maj Gen Salah al-Din Labib has not collected any compensation yet. The National Bank, which Labib has not been able to repay, continues to add interest to the 125,000-pound loan.

With great grief in his heart, the man stops talking.

Another victim is Maj Gen Isma'il Labib--('Azab) Qasr Rashwan. He represents the second case in al-Fayyum. His losses in the battle with the disease were 56 calves.

The losses are divided as follows: 32 calves, weighing more than 400 kilograms and valued at no less than 600 pounds each, and 24 calves weighing from 320-370 kilograms and valued at 500 pounds each, not to mention the weakening of the other calves. Officially, his loss amounts to more than 30,000 pounds, in addition to the 2,300 pounds he paid for his own pocket for medication.

U.S. Marine Team and Ministry Team

Dr Hamdi al-Hakim, the ex-governor of al-Fayyum, describes what has happened as an imported catastrophe.

The man says that the biggest losses have been incurred in Qina, then Bani Suwayf and then al-Minya. At the outset, nobody was notified and the matter was considered just a case of food poisoning among livestock.

Al-Fayyum Governorate is in a special situation insofar as livestock is concerned. The governorate produces no nursing animals and the breeders are compelled to import livestock and young calves from outside markets. Al-Fayyum is one of the most active governorates in meat production and has 74 cooperatives. The first vertical development in which today's farmer has specialized is livestock development. This farmer exports meat to the other governorates. Al-Fayyum cooperatives purchase calves from cattle merchants or from farmers who import cows and add to Egypt's livestock resources in a fundamental way.

At the outset, when some cases appeared in Maj Gen Salah Labib's farm, it was thought that the case was one of reaction to inoculation.

Then a change occurred in the symptoms. Specimens were taken to the veterinarians. The condition was diagnosed as viral cattle diarrhea and an inflammation of the mucous membranes resulting from diarrhea accompanied by a high temperature and ending in death.

The governor took action and asked the Ministry of Agriculture to intervene. A team from the United States (Marine Commission) and a team from the ministry laboratories came immediately. Specimen were taken and analyzed and the outcome was identical to the diagnosis of the Veterinary Medicine Directorate, which had been fully mobilized and had been exerting utmost efforts. There was a reserve supply of all kinds of medicines and the sick animals were isolated. Intensive campaigns were launched and are still in progress. The state of emergency continues.

I asked the governor: "Is there a strategic reserve of the medicine?"

He said: "We have strategic medicine reserves valued at 70,000 pounds, in addition to the reserves set aside by the ministry. This means that the medicines required to treat the disease have been and continue to be available. For your information, no livestock epidemic has occurred in al-Fayyum in 20 years."

But how did this strange and sudden disease appear and how has it spread, turning al-Fayyum Governorate into an isolated governorate insofar as livestock and meat are concerned?

The details of the story are not very different from what the victim breeders and the governorate and Veterinary Medicine Directorate officials recount.

Dr Fawzi Hasan Kamil, director of veterinary medicine in al-Fayyum Governorate, says:

"The first notification we received of the disease came on 3 March from Maj Gen Salah Labib, technical director of the Qasr Rashwan Cooperative, who notified us of the death of three head of cattle. We proceeded as a committee, along with a representative from the laboratories, to conduct an autopsy and find the reason for the sudden death of the cattle."

The disease was not known at the outset.

The case was treated as a case of cattle plague insofar as isolation, disinfection and inoculation are concerned. At this time, the entire area was isolated and put under veterinary quarantine and the corpses were buried after being incinerated. The death toll rose to 11.

Despite all precautions, the condition appeared in cattle at a neighboring farm, namely, the farm of Maj Gen Isma'il Labib. This occurred on 13 March. Death then began to spread and the smell of the contagion started to proliferate. The animals in the neighboring farm were inoculated against cattle plague and blood poisoning. By the time the condition was brought under control, the number of dead cattle was 68 cows out of a total of 468.

Then the contagion started to spread ruthlessly and it became certain that it would be a hard and ferocious battle against the disease. Despite all precautions, the disease began to appear in other cooperatives and farms.

In Ibshway District, the disease appeared in Qarun farms, leading to the death of 1 cow and the slaughtering of 5 others out of a total of 333 cows, a loss of 2.6 percent.

In Sinnuris District, the disease appeared in Fawzi Murad's farm. One hundred and one cows of 917 were isolated; 86 cows were cured and 15 cows, or 1.63 percent, perished.

In Sinnuris Marine Cooperative: Ten cases were isolated, of which 6 cows were cured and 4, or 0.5 percent, were slaughtered.

In al-Fayyum District: In Abu al-Sa'ud farm, which has 1,979 head of cattle, 13 head perished in reaction to inoculation. A total of 240 head afflicted with viral diarrhea were isolated. Of this number, 157 were cured, 22 perished and 30 were slaughtered, meaning that the total loss amounted to 53 cows, or 2.73 of the total number in the cooperative.

Al-Basyuniyah Cooperative: A total of 129 calves were isolated, of which 100 were cured and 29, or 7.12 percent, were slaughtered.

Cattle continue to fall dead, like withered tree leaves.

The number of cattle claimed as victims throughout the governorate, according to the official reports of the Veterinary Medicine Directorate and of the governorate, has reached 357 cows out of a total in the cooperatives of 26,604 head, or 1.34 percent of the total. The number of cattle placed in isolation by 1 May was 33 in Sinnuris District, 30 in al-Fayyum District cooperatives and 12 in the cooperatives and 16 in government and agrarian reform farms in Tamiyah District.

The governorate is still sealed off.

But victims continue to fall and others are saved by the knife.

But has the disease ended and disappeared? It is the veterinarians' opinion that the virus is still present, but with a varying virulence that may escalate at times and decline at others.

So the catastrophe persists and the chapters of the story are not complete yet.

Entry Banned to Veterinarians and Others

But the picture is not completely dark.

There are herds that have not at all been touched by the disease. Two of the biggest farms in al-Fayyum have only heard about the disease, which has not reached them or knocked on their doors.

These are al-Mazatili and al-'Aziziyah farms, which belong to Dr Hisham Majdi Hilal and Salah al-Tubji. They are two of the biggest farms, but not a single victim has fallen in them. The first farm contains 4,000 head of cattle and the second 3,200 head.

Dr Hisham Hamdi [as published] Hilal is a surgeon who inherited the cattle breeding [business]. When the disease appeared in al-Fayyum, he issued instructions banning anybody, be he veterinarian, insurance man or visitor, from entering the farm. At the outset, government officials refused to supply him with fodder because he would not allow the insurance man to enter his farm. But he took the matter to the governor who issued an order that fodder be dispensed, without waiting for any committees. This decision had its impact and was beneficial to all, preventing the spread of the disease from farm to farm.

The Directorate of Agriculture supported the governor's decision that fodder be dispensed without allowing officials to set foot on the farms. The farms, markets and cattle concentrations were also sealed off.

Salah al-Tubji, a member of the Board of Directors of the Livestock Insurance Fund, says: "We have banned the entry and exist of animals and people and have inoculated the cattle against the plague."

He adds: "So far, and God be thanked, we are still 4 km from the contagion. May God protect us."

Insurance Fund and Battle Victims

All eyes are focused on the Livestock Insurance Fund and on what it will pay the victims.

This fund is paying sums that are not at all compatible with reality and with prevailing livestock prices.

The fund's story is an old one and strange.

But what is the Livestock Insurance Fund doing nowadays with the breeders afflicted by the catastrophe? What compensation is it offering? What are the services it can offer?

It is a question repeated by all of the breeders, a question with no answer.

8494

CSO: 5400/5014

BRIEFS

SEPTICEMIA EPIZOOTICA IN JAKARTA--Cattle in South Jakarta are threatened by an epidemic of septicemia epizootica, better known as SE. Six milch cows in the Pondok Petung area on the South Jakarta-Tangerang border recently died of this disease. The death of the cows and the spread of the contagious disease was reported to the Jakarta Livestock Cooperative (KOPERDA) and the DKI [Special Capital Region] Animal Husbandry Service but to date no serum injections have been given. The animals were treated solely with antibiotics. It was discovered that cows in the Kebayoran Lama area were beginning to be attacked by SE. Wardi Asnawi, chief of KOPERDA, explained that the disease which struck the cows in Jakarta originated in Tangerang. Caribou there as well as cows were stricken by the disease. Regarding the serum injections, it was admitted that this had not been done because serum stocks in Jakarta are depleted at this time. "So, we are forced to wait for them to come from Wonocolo, East Java," Wardi Asnawi disclosed on the telephone. According to Oni Saaroni, a veterinarian at the DKI Animal Husbandry Service, the disease spreads rapidly. Cattle are usually infected within 3 to 4 days. Symptoms appearing on the stricken cattle include saliva or mucus drooling from the muzzle or running from the nose. A sound like "ngorok" is heard from the cattle, whose appetite decreases. Touching on the milk from the infected cattle, Oni Saaroni said no one need be concerned. The milk in no way endangers people's health as long as it is boiled before drinking or used in any other manner. According to Saaroni, SE normally attacks cattle and caribou, and no one is surprised when the animals die of this disease. It may spread from the cattle feed, namely grass from areas in which many affected cattle feed. Some of the grass fed to cattle in South Jakarta still comes from Tangerang and its environs. [Excerpts] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 18 May 82 p 3] 6804

CSO: 5400/8422

COLD STORAGE BOARD STARTS SALE OF QUARANTINED CATTLE

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 15 Jun 82 p 5

[Text] THE Cold Storage Board of Zambia has started selling some of the 800 head of cattle quarantined in Choma because of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

CSBZ regional manager Mr Stanley Mweemba said yesterday in Livingstone that it would take more than a year to sell all the animals in Choma alone because only about six head of cattle were being slaughtered for sale a week.

The population in Choma was "very small" and could not consume more than six animals a week because their diet was supplemented by a good supply of fish.

The regional manager said it would be expensive to keep the cattle for a long time as it was costing a lot to feed them.

Mr Mweemba, who would go to Choma today to check on the condition of the

cattle, said the Veterinary Department was not allowing CSBZ to move the animals until after six weeks when they would ascertain whether the foot and mouth disease had been contained.

The Veterinary Department will conduct thorough investigations into claims by Mbabala Member of Parliament Mr Edward Nyanga that an outbreak of corridor disease had killed 100 head of cattle in Choma.

Provincial veterinary officer Dr Namasivayam Balasupramamiam, said the office of the district governor had arranged an investigative trip to the affected area.

Dr Balasupramamiam said he could neither deny nor confirm the outbreak until he had conducted his own investigations.

Choma acting governor Mr Alfred Lumbwe had challenged the MP to substantiate his allegation that there was an outbreak of corridor disease in his constituency.

— Zana.

CSO: 5400/5645

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

DYING EUCALYPTUS--Eucalyptus trees throughout the central and eastern wheat-belt are dying in large numbers, according to local shire councils. Big losses have been reported in the Mukinbudin, Tammin, Brookton, Trayning, Narembene and Merredin areas. Local shire councils are hoping that investigations by the CSIRO will show the cause of the problem. Tammin Shire Council recently arranged for soil and root samples from dying trees to be sent to the CSIRO in Perth. Tests for the more obvious types of fungal diseases have so far proved negative. A CSIRO scientist is expected to visit the area this week to make further assessments. The Tammin Shire clerk, Mr Ralph Tonkin, said that the council had an earlier report from a Forestry Department officer attributing the problem to a combination of salt build-up in the soil, chemical sprays and in some cases trees being planted in bad positions. However the council had been reluctant to accept the conclusion because of the random way in which trees were affected. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 21 May 82 p 3]

CSO: 5400/7563

EL SALVADOR

BRIEFS

COFFEE RUST SPREADS--"Coffee rust has spread at a 'giddy' rate," said Ing Miguel Muyschondt Yudice, minister of agriculture and livestock MAG. He said that technical teams are doing their utmost to counter its effects. At present methods are being studied to effectively control the rust. Ing Muyschondt added that MAG technical staffs have been sent to various places in the country to counter the rust epidemic. For its part, the Campaign and Quarantine Department of the Salvadoran Institute for Agricultural and Fishing Research (ISIAP) is coordinating the activity with the cooperation of the country's four regions. At present work is being carried out with all available resources in order to minimize the impact of the disease on the country's main export item--coffee. Departmental officials have coordinated the rust eradication campaign. Salvadoran coffee growers currently are receiving a chemical called "Oxicloruro" and sprinklers. They are given technical assistance in the correct handling of applications, how to make mixtures, how to apply doses in each plot, and in other uses. It was explained that the coffee growers are attending to the labor and water. It is hoped that this will result in additional control, while awaiting a budgetary allotment, said ISIAP members in charge of controlling the coffee rust. [Text] [San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 11 Jun 82 p 32] 8255

CSO: 5400/2178

MEXICO

BRIEFS

WHEAT, BARLEY FUNGUS--Ensenada, Baja California, 23 June--The low temperatures and bad weather prevailing for the past month along the coast have led to the development of a fungus which has affected a number of hectares of wheat and barley, Genaro Hernandez, administrator of the Temporal District of the SARH [Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources], has reported. He said that the excessive humidity along the coast of the state has prevented the threshing of the wheat and barley until now. This official explained that until last Friday, 80 hectares of barley grain had been harvested, with a yield of 634 kg per hectare. Also, 34 hectares of the grain with a yield of 518 kg and 3,248 hectares of barley fodder, with a yield of 24 bales per hectare, had been harvested, he said. [By Javier Cruz Aguirre] [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 24 Jun 82 p 29-A] 5157

CSO: 5400/2180

PERSIAN GULF AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

LOCUST WARNING--A state of emergency has been declared in the Gulf region over a 10-square-kilometre army of locusts in the Shakha Mountains, South Yemen. Ahmad al-Hawasna, director of the Saudi food and agriculture organisation anti-locust centre in Jeddah, said countries in the Gulf region had been told that the locust were thought to be breeding at present. They might invade Gulf territories at a later date. The Saudi paper said various governments in the Gulf region were bracing for the locusts. They were mobilising their resources, especially after three locusts had been found in the UAE. Saudi experts said the locusts were capable of moving at between 30 and 70 kms-per-hour, depending on wind force and direction. But present weather conditions indicated the locusts might not head towards Saudi Arabia before September. [Text] [GF241100 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 24/25 Jun 82 p 3 GF]

CSO: 5400/4728

PALAWAN RICE FIELDS INFESTED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 25 Jun 82 pp 1, 13

[Text]

Bureau of plant industry Director Domingo Panganiban reported yesterday that farmlands in 62 barangays, five municipalities, and a city, all in Palawan, are now infested by "rice black bugs" which, if not controlled, will cause heavy damage to rice crops.

If not controlled in the next two months, some 4,000 hectares of riceland will not be suitable for planting this season and there is a strong possibility that the pest will spread to other areas, he said.

Panganiban, who inspected the extent of the damage yesterday, said the areas infested are the towns of Narra, Brookes Point, Aborlan, Quezon, and Bataraza and the city of Puerto Princesa.

Aborlan was the worst affected, Panganiban said.

He however, said that

the overall situation is not so alarming since the pest was discovered early when rice crops were not yet planted.

The Ministry of Agriculture, the Palawan provincial government and the people of Palawan have joined hands to get rid of the pest immediately, he said.

The Palawan provincial government has released P74,000 to buy insecticides, he added.

Before their discovery in May, the rice black bugs (*Scotinophara urida* Burmeister) were unknown in Philippine agriculture. The bugs are known to be destructive pests in Malaysia, Sri Lanka, China, and Japan.

The insects suck rice leaves, stems and panicles, resulting in stunting, yellowing, and drying up of leaves.

Panganiban said damage may result in yield losses averaging 50 per cent in many localities. This means that a hectare which usually yields 150 cavans of rice will only produce 75 cavans.

Palawan has 11,000 hectare of rice lands, 4,016 hectares of which are already infested,

Panganiban said.

He said two measures are being undertaken to eradicate the pest: intensive hand-picking and plan quarantine.

Panganiban said

some 2,000 hectares have been sprayed with insecticide.

Some people suspect the pests were brought to the Palawan through copra trading between Palawenos and Malaysian traders. Others believe the insects came from Japan through logs carried by Japanese traders or fishing boats.

The ministry also found out that aside from Palawan, rice black bugs can also be found in Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro, and in Wawa, Siniloan, Laguna.

CSO: 5400/5666

SOCORRO WILT ISOLATED TO MINDORO COCONUTS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 26 Jun 82 p 9

[Text]

Rolando de la Cuesta, chairman of the Philippine coconut authority, said there is no cause for alarm on the reported disease that has afflicted some coconut trees in Mindoro.

He made this statement after conducting an inspection trip on the affected areas in Socorro, Oriental Mindoro with PCA administrator Felix V. Duenas, Jr. and Cocofed representatives led by Director Jose Morente.

De la Cuesta added that PCA personnel in Cebu and Palawan have reported that no such disease has occurred in Cebu and Palawan contrary to earlier newspaper reports. Contrary, too, to the

impression created by news stories that the disease spreads like wildlife and that it killed 5,000 trees in a matter of few days, he said that the reported 7,000 infected trees were affected in a span of more than six years.

Socorro wilt, he said, is not a new disease having been spotted as early as 1960 and is confined to the municipality of Socorro, hence the name of the disease "Socorro wilt."

In affected areas, there would be one palm hit by the disease in a population of 200 trees. In interview with local farmers, some said that this wilting has been observed as early as in the 1960's.

De la Cuesta said

that since 1977, PCA has conducted intensive studies of this disease and that teams of coconut scientists and disease experts have at least come out with a theory that the possible causes of this disease may be due to fungus and/or protozoa.

In order to hasten the research efforts to find the cause and antidote of the disease, de la Cuesta ordered PCA management to set up a permanent task force in Socorro for the purpose.

He said a quarantine order prohibiting the movement of coconut planting materials from Mindoro issued by the bureau of plant industry should not alarm the farmers.

CSO: 5400/5666

RICE BLACK BUG INFESTATION NOT ALARMING

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 27 Jun 82 p 13

[Article by Cris Cerdena]

[Text]

TOURISTS go to Candaba, Pampanga for its famed watermelons. But last summer, they hardly found any. All the watermelons were destroyed by fruit flies.

One farmer lamented that he yielded only one-eighth of his harvest because of the dreaded pests. Two years before, the flies ate up 90 percent of Pampanga's ampalaya (bitter melon) harvest.

Before 1975, the Philippine carabao mango was refused entry to Japan, one of the biggest mango consumers in Asia. The Japanese government feared that the fruit might be carrying the flies, still non-existent in most parts of Japan.

EVEN after the ban had been lifted, tons of mangoes were reportedly burned or dumped by Japanese inspectors if found to contain a single fruit fly egg.

Harmless when full grown, fruit fly maggots feed on the flesh of various fruits and vegetables, from mangoes to watermelons, to peppers and santol.

The Philippines spent two decades developing antidotes for fruit fly infestation. Aside from adapting fumigants, protective chemicals sprayed on fruits to prevent flies from laying eggs on fruits, it also started using synthetic attractants. The attractants strongly resemble the odor secreted by female fruit flies during mating time, and only attracts males.

SOON, it may have to choose between the most effective and the cheapest type of attractant.

The Bureau of Plant Industry recently discovered a natural fly-trap which rivals the two existing chemicals used for this purpose.

This material, the pulverized bark of the Kalingag tree (Cinamomum Mercador Vidal), attracts three species of fruit flies: the Oriental, melon, and jackfruit flies.

BPI studies show that the bark can lure as much as 25,000 flies in a day. Mixed with a small amount of dipterez, sevin, or any insecticides for flies, and dissolved in water, the material acquires the properties of a pesticide and effectively kills flies.

The Kalingag is, so far, the most economical "attractant" for the dreaded pests, the BPI says. The tree, said to be a relative of the laurel tree from which the condiment is derived, is planted in several parts of the country — "from Babuyan Islands and Northern Luzon to Mindanao," the BPI continues.

ALVARO Silva, BPI plant entomologist who came across the Kalingag in Lucban, Quezon, further adds that the bark has been used by local folk as remedy for headaches, rheumatism, stomach trouble, and even tuberculosis.

But how reliable is the Kalingag compared with the ethyl eugenol or the para-acetoxy-phenyl butanone (PAPB), two chemical compounds which have until now performed as attractants for the flies?

"At present, we have found the Kalingag to be an unstable attractant," says Eugenia Manoto, fruit fly specialist of the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission. "Unlike the ethyl and PAPB, its attracting powers last only a few hours."

CSO: 5400/5666

FRUIT FLIES ATTACK WATERMELON IN PAMPANGA

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 27 Jun 82 p 13

[Article by Estrella Santos]

[Text]

ASSISTANT Secretary of Agriculture and Bureau of Plant Industry Director Domingo Panganiban allayed fears on the alarming situation of the rice black bug infestation that hit Palawan three weeks ago.

Panganiban, who just enplaned from Palawan for the on-the-spot inspection on orders of President Marcos, said there is no cause for alarm on the reported pest infestation.

Panganiban said the 4,500 hectares which is reported to be infested by the rice black bug are not planted to rice yet but being prepared for the coming planting season which will be in July.

He said it will take at least two more months to totally control the rice bug before the rice farmers can plant palay again.

However, he said the

slight delay in the planting season will not affect the rice production in this region.

SO FAR, Panganiban said the bugs are found in the soil and in the dikes. He said the lack of irrigation has contributed to the fast multiplication of the pest.

He said the black bugs not only attack the palay but also grass-crops and other green plants.

He described the pest infestation as serious but controllable.

The black bug, *Scotinphae urida* is reported to have originated from Malaysia. It has been reported to be a major pest in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, China and Japan.

Panganiban disclosed that it is the first time that the Philippines had a serious report of this

black bug infestation.

However, its infestation so far is only contained in the inlands of Palawan.

The bugs, when they attack the plant, suck the leaves, stems and panicles resulting in the stunting, yellowing, and drying up of leaves resulting in the "bug burn."

The bugs usually attack at dusk and moonlight time. Eggs are reported to hatch within seven to 14 days wherein a female bug could at least lay 48 eggs a day.

The Ministry of Agriculture, in its memorandum to President Marcos said the agency has now adopted a two-pronged control program.

Panganiban said a massive mechanical control is being done by thousands of the local inhabitants including school children,

civic organizations, Boys and Girls Scouts who have gathered themselves to gather the bugs in the fields.

In Narra town, the mayor has given incentive by giving a sack of rice for every sack of bugs gathered.

Panganiban disclosed that some P110,000 from the city government and P54,000 from the provincial government have been allocated for the eradication and control of this pest.

So far, the spray of pesticide has proved effective. However, Panganiban said observation must be made to see if the eggs will hatch in spite of the soil chemicals application.

So far, he said, no studies have been reported on the nature and characteristic of this pest, hence no established form of control and eradication known.

—Estrella Santos

BRIEFS

PESTS ATTACK WATERMELONS--San Fernando, Pampanga, June 30--Pests attacked some 6,000 hectares of watermelon farms in Candaba, this province, during the last crop season, decreasing by about 50 percent the harvest of 1,300 farmers. The farmers used to produce an average of 25 to 30 tons of watermelons per hectare before the centipede-like plant pest struck their plantations some six years ago. Their problems have been further aggravated when they detected that the pests, called "thrips," also afflicted the palay and other crops and vegetables. Sources said that efforts by the field technicians of the Ministry of Agriculture to eradicate the thrips came in vain due to lack of an effective insecticide. Agriculture regional Director Segundo Serano reported that he ordered a stop in the use of one brand of insecticide found to be effective in killing the pests because it also killed the plant. It was not immediately known whether the watermelon crops were covered by the crop insurance but what was certain was that many of the farmers were not able to pay their loans with the banks because of huge losses they incurred during the harvest season. Sources said the farmers were forced to sell their crops at very low prices because the watermelon afflicted by thrips was no longer good to eat. [Jerry J. Lacuarta] [Text] [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 1 Jul 82 p 36]

PESTS WORRY FARMERS--Candaba, Pampanga, July 4--Thousands of farmers here have become apprehensive over the failure of the Ministry of Agriculture to contain the pests which are wreaking havoc on their farms. A German scientist and agriculturists of the University of the Philippines college of agriculture in Los Banos, Laguna, are conducting separate researches and studies on how to stop the pests. The pests, called "thrips," look like small centipedes. Agriculture regional Director Segundo Serano had earlier reported that about 1,300 farmers here lost about some 6,000 hectares of farms during the last crop season. The farmers used to harvest 25 to 30 tons of watermelons per hectares, Serrano reported. Apart from afflicting the watermelons, the thrips also attack palay and vegetables, particularly "ampalaya." Serrano, however, expressed optimism that the pests can be eradicated very soon, saying that his field technicians have been trying to monitor very closely the movement of the pests. He recommended crop rotation in the affected areas by planting sorghum and yellow corn. He suggested to Mayor Gonzalo Martin, Jr that the watermelon farms be quantified. [Jerry J. Lacuarta] [Text] [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 5 Jul 82 p 9]

PALAWAN RICE INFESTATION SPREADS--Rice plantation affected by the black bug in Palawan has gone up to over 1,400 hectares, double that of the previous day's infestation, the Ministry of Agriculture reported yesterday. Agriculture minister Arturo R. Tanco Jr. said the figure represents one-third of the total area planted to Masagana 99 program. Total area planted to rice under the program is 10,000 hectares. The Bureau of Plant Industry earlier quarantined the whole island of Palawan to stop the transport of the deadly bug. The insects, which were discovered in the island six months ago, sucks up the sap of rice stalks and the infested stalk dries up in two days after it is attacked by the bug. As a remedy, BPI entomologists are spraying daily pesticides on the rice fields and people leaving the island are prevented from transporting any palay. [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 12 Jun 82 p 2]

CSO: 5400/4644

VIRUS HITS NORTHERN EMIRATES CROPS

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 13 Jun 82 p 3

[Article by Suliman Al Mahi]

[Text] RAS AL KHAIMAH (EN): The pumpkin family crops cultivated in the northern emirates have been damaged beyond repair by a virus.

Melon, water-melons and Zucchini as well as other summer plants have been hit by a virus for which no counteractive measures have been discovered.

Dr. Zeedan Abdul Aal, the technical adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture, explained that the virus which caused considerable damage to the summer crops especially the pumpkin family is not visible to the human eye and the ordinary microscope but can only be seen through an electron microscope. However, the virus can be detected through certain syndromes appearing in the plant as in the case of melons, water-melons and Zucchini where their leaves turn yellowish, light-green colour, while the stems grow upward instead of spreading on the ground. The virus is not new but has been spotted inside and outside the country for a long time. He asserted, however, that the virus became more locally active of late because of the high temperature and humidity and the weed proliferation due to heavy rains early this year. Besides, farmers here had planted summer crops early to market their crops in Ramadan when the demand for melons and vegetables is brisk. Obviously an early start for the

agricultural season can be as harmful as a late one.

Dr. Zeedan suggests that the efforts needed to avert the dangers of such a virus would be through preventive measures. He emphasised the need to select the appropriate time for starting the agricultural season and the importance of clearing the farm of weeds, use of effective insecticides and fertilisers.

Another harmful factor, Dr. Zeedan says is the use of expatriate farm labourers who are still steeped in antediluvian practices which are unsuitable for the environment here. Such workers are unable to understand and assimilate agricultural guidance and instructions, he added.

Dr. Hussin Abu Saleh, the UN expert on plants is of the opinion that farmers must be obliged to adhere to fixed timings for cultivation to protect plants from viruses and agricultural diseases.

He said that various agricultural crops have been subjected to numerous experiments to ascertain the best times for their cultivation. Such experiments have proved that cultivation of melons and water-melons is best done between the middle of March and early April.

Hamad Mohamed Abdalla says he was completely taken by surprise on discovering substantial damage to his

melon and water melon crops. The virus had hit all farms where cultivation began early in April, sparing the farms which started their season later in the month. "In fact, the latter farms gave good crops," he said.

He added that affected farmers had called for help from agricultural guides only to learn from them that nothing could be done except to remove damaged crops and raise different ones.

However, he said acute shortage of irrigation facilities makes farmers too eager to start cultivating their crops ahead of schedule. He urged the concerned authorities to speed up completion of water projects, especially construction of underground reservoirs to impound rain waters.

Another farmer, Ali Salem Al Qatam, complained of scarce supply of insecticides. He said he owned two farms (7 million square metres) but was supplied only one-fifth of insecticides and had to buy the rest from the market at high prices.

As a result, he has urged the authorities to be more generous with insecticides supply, saying that the Ministry of Agriculture has assured farmers of their requirements of fertilisers.

GRAIN, WOOD IMPORTS FROM TANZANIA BANNED

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 15 Jun 82 p 1

[Text] THE Government has with immediate effect indefinitely banned importation of grains and wood products from Tanzania following the discovery of the grain borer there.

Announcing the ban yesterday, director of agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development Mr Nicholas Mumba said the move was aimed at preventing the grain borer from entering Zambia.

Customs officials at Mpulungu and Nakonde have been instructed not to allow into Zambia any grains or wood products from Tanzania with immediate effect.

These instructions were given in January and relevant provincial heads of Northern Province had been alerted to watch out for any commodity that showed symptoms of infestation by the insect.

Recommendations had already been passed for the Government to prohibit the importation of commodities like maize, beans, cassava and wood products from Tanzania, Mr Mumba said.

As far as the country was concerned, the pest had never been recorded in any parts of Zambia before.

"Following the report from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), an entomologist was instructed to

carry out research on the pest and has proven it has never been recorded in Zambia before.

"And because of this, instructions were given out to obtain a description of the pest and its habits."

Even a storage entomologist sent to inspect the possibility of the borer having reached Northern Province, indicated negative results after taking a sample of every load of cassava, beans, maize, rice and wheat.

In January, FAO recommended that grain entering Zambia from Tanzania must be thoroughly checked at the border to detect the borer.

FAO's warning came after it was reported from Dar es Salaam that the vermin, which has already caused losses to farmers in five regions in Tanzania, was feared to spread to Zambia.

CSO: 5400/5645

END